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# Authors Note

I am so excited to be able to write this story for you. This story takes place in the lake territories about 3 generations after Leafpool and Squirrelleap. Softpaw, a young apprentice, is the main character. Do keep in mind that with school, I might not be able to publish chapters on a regular schedule, but I will try for every week or so. There is a mild gore warning. Thank you.
May Starclan light your path.

# Cats of the Lake

Thunderclan:

Leader - Owlstar - Small light tabby she-cat

Deputy - Thislebranch - Older ginger tom

Medicine Cats -
Yellowstep - White she-cat with a ginger foot - Apprentice - Tansypaw

Warriors -
Willowpelt - White she-cat with a few dark ginger spots and amber eyes - Apprentice - Softpaw
Firestorm - Dark Ginger tabby tom with white feet and a white chest and white tip of tail.
Stripedfoot - Dark tabby tom - Apprentice - Rainpaw
Rosetail - Gray she-cat - Apprentice - Shadowpaw
Dusknose - Black tom with lighter fleck
Kesteralfeather - Brown tom with.  darker flecks
Silverwhisker - White tom with gray  whiskers
Bluestream - blue-black she-cat - Apprentice - Olivepaw
Shrewnose - Older brown tom with a long snout - Apprentice - Skypaw
Ravenspark - Gray spotted she-cat
Yellowshine - Black tom with yellow eyes - Apprentice - Graypaw
Brindlepelt - Tawny she-cat - Apprentice - Bluepaw
Dawnleaf - Dark tabby she-cat
Whirlpool - Golden tabby she-cat with stunning green eyes

Queens -
Sheepcloud - Young white she-cat queen - Expecting
Palefur - Light cream-colored she-cat - Nursing kits
Heathernose - Beautiful Tortiseshell she-cat, green eyes, and a distinct pink nose - Expecting

Apprentices -

Tansypaw - Calico she-cat Medicine Cat Apprentice with green eyes
Softpaw - Black she-cat with gray spots and yellow eyes
Olivepaw - Black tom with green eyes and one white foot.
Bluepaw - Bluish she-cat with bright yellow eyes
Skypaw - Gray she-cat with white flecks
Rainpaw - Dark tabby she-cat
Shadowpaw - Black tom with white underbelly, paws, and tip of tail
Graypaw - Gray tom with white spots

Elders -
Misttail - A gray she-cat with tiny gray spots with blue eyes
Bramblestripe- A dark tabby Tom with a darker brown stripe along his back and hazel eyes
Snowpebble- A white she-cat with gray paws and tail tip and blue eyes

Kits -
Honeykit - Small pale ginger she-kit
Blazekit - Dark tabby, almost black tom
Amberkit - Light tabby she-kit with white paws and a white tail tip
Dawnkit - Small tortoiseshell she-kit with 3 white paws and a white tail tip with green eyes

Riverclan:

Leader -
Froststar - A white she-cat with a gray stripe along his back, gray paws, and blue eyes

Deputy - Pearlflower - White marbleish pelt with striking blue eyes - Apprentice - Minnowpaw

Medicine Cats -
Dappledtail - Gray and white spots, dappled with one green and one blue eye
Fogspirit - A light gray tom with tiny white spots, white paws, and blue eyes

Warriors -
Otterthroat - Brown tom with light brown head - Apprentice - Reedpaw

Dewwhisker - Cream-colored she-cat
Stormleaf - Solid black tom
Slatepelt - Slate-colored tom - Apprentice - Violetpaw
Icehawk - Silver tom with yellow eyes - Apprentice - Songpaw
Mistmoon - Light gray she-cat with light blue eyes and 3 white paws
Bluewhisper - lialac tortie she-cat with blue eyes
Moonleap- Sleek black tom with white paw
Crystallake - pale ginger she-cat with sky-blue eyes
Splashheart - Dark tabby she-cat with white splashes
Mudfur - lialac brown tom

Queens -
Silverstorm - A silver she-cat with a fluffy white tail and yellow eyes - nursing kits
Echoflood - Young dark tabby she-cat with bright yellow eyes - Expecting
Breezeheart- A tortie she-cat with green eyes - nursing kits

Apprentices -
Reedpaw - Tabby tom
Violetpaw - Gray she-cat with white patches and violet eyes
Songpaw - Black she-cat with small white flecks on her paws and a white tail
Minnowpaw - Smaller light tabby she-cat with one yellow eye and one green eye

Elders -
Lilyflower- A white she-cat with yellow eyes
Jaggedspike- A gray tabby tom with a crooked jaw and blue eyes

Kits -
Whitekit- A white she-kit with green eyes
Frozenkit- A white tom with blue eyes
Fangkit- A chocolate brown tom with yellow eyes
Pouncekit- A tortie she-kit with white paws and yellow eyes

Windclan:

Leader - Marshstar - Dark tabby tom with dark green eyes

Deputy - Shadestone- A dark gray tom with a black chest and tail tip and indigo eyes

Medicine cat -
Featherleaf - A tortoiseshell she-cat with piercing green eyes and a leaf on her head - Apprentice - Smallpaw
Mudfur - lialac brown tom

Warriors -
Blackstorm - Black tom with a white underside
Moorflower - Young calico she-cat
Autumnleaf - Young Tortoiseshell she-cat with one blue eye and one yellow eye - Apprentice - Swiftpaw
Rubywhisker - Dark ginger she-cat that looks almost red and yellow eyes
Poisonfang - Dark gray tom with a black foot and green eyes - Apprentice - Spiderpaw
Copperleaf - Copper-colored ginger she-cat with green eyes
Ashbreeze - Light gray she-cat with dark gray flecks, white paws, and yellow eyes - Apprentice - Falconpaw

Appreciates -
Spiderpaw - black tom with white paws a white tail and indigo eyes
Smallpaw - Very small tom, brown tabby with white paws and tail tip and green eyes
Swiftpaw - A white she-cat with tiny brown spots and indigo eyes
Falconpaw - Grey she- cat with heather blue eyes and white spots

Queens -
Blackflower - Solid black she-cat - Expecting kits
Gingerroot - Ginger she-cat with green eyes - Nursing kits

Elders -
Scarletclaw- A pure red she-cat with yellow eyes
Blackice- A black tom with tiny white spots and light blue eyes

Kits -
Perilkit - A ginger she-kit with a white underside and green eyes
Sandkit - A pale ginger tom with one white paw and green eyes

Shadowclan:

Leader - Ravenstar- Black tom with white underside, white tail tip, one white paw, and blue eyes

Deputy - Whiteear- Fierce black and white she-cat with torn ear

Medicine Cat- Meadowpool- Young ginger she-cat

Warriors -
Snowynight- A white she-cat with black fleck, black paws, and purple eyes
Bramblefang: Tabby tom, green eyes
Goldenblaze: Ginger tabby tom - Apprentice - Branchpaw
Mothfur: Cream she-cat
Clayfur: Gray tabby tom, icy blue eyes
Talonclaw: Tabby tom with yellow eyes
Mosspelt - Dark gray tom - Apprentice - Basilpaw
Shadedheart: Black she-cat with white paw - Apprentice - Elmpaw
Peachnose: White she-cat with bright-colored nose
Longwhisker: Ginger tabby she-cat - Apprentice- Toadpaw
Badgerfoot: Gray tom with dark gray legs and ears
Mapletail: Tortoiseshell she-cat, amber eyes

Queens -
Sprucefur- Tortoiseshell she-cat- Expecting kits
Daisywhisker- White she-cat- Nursing kits

Apprentices -
Elmpaw: Tortoiseshell she-cat
Branchpaw: Tabby she-cat
Basilpaw: Cream tom, green eyes
Toadpaw: Tabby tom

Elders -
Rocktooth- A dark gray tom with a crooked tooth and brown eyes
Mistpelt- Black she-cat with white tips
Grovesong- Tabby she-cat

Kits -
Grasskit- Pale gray she-kit with emerald green eyes, agrees with the ideas of the blades of grass cult(Seriously Lily! This has nothing to do with Warrior Cats, btw, it's just something my friends made up,

they helped me make this)
Siltkit- Gray tom
Splotchkit- Calico she-kit

Skyclan:

Leader - Puddlestar - Brown tabby she-cat

Deputy - Pinefur - Dark tabby tom

Medicine Cat - Rockheart - Dark gray tom with lighter flecks

Warriors -
Honeyspots - Yellow tabby she-Cat with white spots
Marblefur - Marble colored tom
Snowdust - white long furred tom with blue eyes
Darkwhisker - Black tom
Rubystone - Red ginger she-cat with 2 white paws
Meadowfall - White she-cat with gray spots - Apprentice - Winterpaw
Violetcloud - Black she-cat with white chest and paws
Grayfang - Dark gray tom with black stripe down back
Ravenscar - Black tom with white on face and a scar across one eye
Silvermoon - Silver tabby she-cat - Apprentice - Dapplepaw
Rosepatch - Brown tabby she-cat

Queens -
Chestnuttail - Tan tabby she-cat - Expecting kits

Apprentices -
Winterpaw - White tom
Dapplepaw - Brown dappled she-cat

Elders -
Copperclaw - Copper colored tom with a lot of white
Hazelstripe - Dark tabby she-cat
Stonestep - Light gray tom with green eyes

**First chapter, coming soon!**

# Prolouge

Pov - Galekit
Galekit opened his eyes, his tabby pelt sparkling. He looked out in front of himself and he saw two strange cats. One being a Blueish-gray and one being a flame red.
"Hello, young one," the blue-gray she-cat spoke, her voice calm.
"W-where am I," he stammered. For the first time, I he noticed the stars around us as well as in the strange cat's pelts. The Flame-colored tom spoke next. "Don't worry, young one, everything will be okay. You are in Starclan."
"W-what," Galekit turned around, looking around and saw cats racing by on their way to hunt. He noticed a few unfrimilier Thunderclan sents, but also sents Galekit didn't recognize. He knew he must be dreaming. The two cats who greeted him started walking away. The tom flicked his tail, asking Galekit to follow, which he did.
The she-cat spoke,
"Well, Galekit, I am Bluestar." I stopped walking to stare at the she-cat. Now that I looked, I could see that she looked like the cat who my mother described as Bluestar in her stories.
"And I am Firestar." He turn to look at the flame colored tom.
*I should of realized who he was, he has a striking flame pelt and bright green eyes.*
They kept on walking, and he  followed them carefully, glancing around. His mother, Ravenspark, had always told me and my siblings to always be alert and have an eye open just in case. They walked to a hollow in the ground. It was quite large, probably about 5x the size of the Thunderclan camp. Bluestar and Firestar lead him down a pathway to the center of the camp. He noticed that the camp wasn't very hidden, it was out in the open in an area where you could see pine forest, marsh like area, and open hills, and of course the forest which they had come from, Thunderclan's forest.

"Welcome to the Starclan camp."

# Chapter 1

Pov - 3rd person
Softpaw felt the wind running through her fur as she ran along the well-worn paths of the forest. Willowpelt, her mentor running a little bit ahead. Willowpelt stopped up ahead at a towering oak tree that rose up above the other, and stood waiting for her. Willowpelts fur russled in the slight breeze. When Softpaw caught up, Willowpelt spoke,
"This is the sky oak. It is the tallest tree in the forest." Willowpelt spoke her soft voice, kind but firm as she went on.
"Don't try climbing the sky oak until you are very experienced in climbing. Rainpaw almost fell out yesterday."
She remembered how Rainpaw and her mentor Stripedfoot had walked into camp and went straight over to the medicine den. Rainpaw was obviously limping slightly, Tansypaw, the medicine cat apprentice had ushered the young apprentice into the medicine den to see Yellowstep. Olivekit, now Olivepaw, her brother, had talked to Tansypaw, and it seems like Rainpaw would not be in training for a few days due to a sprained paw.
"Ok," Softpaw said, looking up at the huge tree.
"Come on, let's go to the lake." Willowpelt suggested, with that they took off towards the lake. She could hear the soft lapping of the waves on the lakeshore. The breeze was stronger here, coming off the lake. The braken and brambles lined the lakeshore. She could smell mice scurrying through the undergrowth.
*Wow, it's so beautiful, you can see all the territories from here.*
Softpaw looked across the lake at Riverclan territory, a thick fog covering the marshs across the lake. The smell of fish carried across the water.
"It's so beautiful," She said, looking around in awe.
"I know," Willsďowpelt said, walking up,
"This is one of my favorite spots on the territory. We should probably be getting back, though. It is getting late." I looked up, and sure enough, the sun was starting to fall, and dusk was approaching.
"Ok," with one last glance at the lake, I turned to follow Willowpelt

back to camp.

Back at camp, Palefur's four kits were running around the clearing chasing after a moss ball.
Kestralfeather and Silverwhisker, two of the senior warriors, were sharing a rabbit by the warriors den.
Owlstar and her deputy, Thislebranch, walked over from under highledge.
"Hello, Willowpelt, Softpaw, how was the patrol?" Owlstar called, waving her tail to signal for us to come over.
"It was great," I said. "We saw the sky oak!"
"That's wonderful, Softpaw. How about you go get some fresh kill," Thislebranch suggested. I walked away from the group of cats to the fresh kill pile. I was so excited to talk to my brother and sister, Olivepaw and Bluepaw. I was ready to take on a new adventure.

# Chapter 2

Pov - Softpaw
I trotted over to Olivepaw and Bluepaw, a mouse dangling in my jaws. Bluepaw and Olivepaw looked up from their pray. I put my mouse down next to the sparrow they were sharing.
"What's making you excited?" Bluepaw asked, her blue gray pelt shimmering as the rays from the sunset caught her pelt, turning her an orange color.
"Willowpelt took me to the sky oak and the lake. You could see all the territories from the shore."
"That must have been awesome!" Olivepaw said
"It was," I said. Bluepaw's tail lashed, she glanced at me, slight anger in her eyes. Then suddenly she burst.
"You don't know how lucky you are. My mentor got sick on the first day!" Brindlepelt had gotten whitecough while on overnight gurard duty yesterday, she got too cold and didn't get any help from Yellowstep or ask any warrior to take up her post while she got some rest, the first sickness of leafbare was here, and there wasn'teven snow on the ground. Brindlepelt felt awful, but Bluepaw was obviously upset for losing training.
"Maybe we can ask Owlstar if you can go on the sunhigh patrol with me and Willowpelt tomorrow." I suggested. Bluepaw's eyes lit up.
"I'll ask her when she gets back from the hunting patrol. Thanks, Softpaw." They finished up their fresh kill, and Bluepaw bounded up to Owlstar, who was talking with Thislebranch, under highledge. Me and Olivepaw walked over to the apprentice den to get some sleep.

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Skypaw was curled up in her nest of moss. Her chest slowly rose and fell with sleep. Her white flecked pelt shining as though it was recently groomed. Skypaw and Rainpaw are sisters, and Skypaw has been worried about her sister since she got back to camp yesterday.
Skypaw raised her head as we walked by her
"Is it time for patrol?" She asks, sleep still in her eyes.

"No, don't worry, go back to sleep." Olivepaw answered. Skypaw purred her thanks and settled back into her nest. They walked past towards their nests. When they had settled themselves in Softpaw, they spoke
"So Olivepaw, what was that."
"Nothing," he said sharply, hiding in the moss.
"Ok, ok, just wondering." I said as we drifted off into sleep.
*I know you are falling for Skypaw, and I don't think I don't notice Olivepaw because I do.*

**Chapter 3 comi ng soon! Hope you enjoy**

# Chapter 3

**Thank you so much. I'm sorry about the long wait for this chapter. I have been really busy with school.**

Pov - 3rd person
Softpaw awoke into a starry forest. She looked up and saw that the stars of silverpelt looked closer than they usually do. Then Softpaw noticed a young tortoiseshell she-cat walking up with a gray she-cat, whose pelt looked matted. Both the she-cats pelts looked like they had small stars in them, making them shimmer in the moonlight. Then Softpaw noticed a small tabby kit walking behind them.
*No ... it can't be ...*
"Galekit?" She asked, her voice shaking,
It *has to be ...*
"Softkit!" Galekit bounded over his tail high and excitement on his face.
"Softpaw," She said proudly, correcting her little brother. She felt a pang of sadness, knowing that he would never know what it felt like to be an apprentice. To feel the breeze running through your fur as you race through the forest.
"Wow ... Congratulations!" He said, looking up at her with a gleam in his eyes. He looked proud of her... but she could see a hint of jealousy hidden in his bright eyes.
"Alright Galekit, me and Yellowfang have to talk to Softpaw now. How about you go see if the other kits want to play?" The young Tortoiseshell spoke, her voice gentle as she nudged Galekit to where they had come from.
"Ok!" He said .
"Bye Softpaw!" He called over his shoulder as he trotted away.
"Bye," Softpaw called to him as his tail disappeared after a bend in the trail. She turned her attention back to the young she-cat.

"I'm Spottedleaf, I was a Thunderclan medicine cat *many* seasons ago."
"And I'm Yellowfang, I was the medicine cat after Spottedleaf here."

She playfully flicks her tail on Spottedleaf's shoulders.
"You make me feel old, Yellowfang." Softpaw laughed.
"We are actually here to tell you something." Spottedleaf's voice went strangly cold,
"*Beware unfrimilier sents and paws. They shall come when the moon is full, don't let them come, but they must come."*

Softpaw woke with a start. She was shaking, and her breath was coming out in pants like she had just run around the lake. Beside her, Olivepaw groned,
"What was that about?"
"Oh, nothing, do you want fresh kill?"
"No thanks, I want to sleep a little longer." He replied before burying himself back into his nest.
She walked out of the den and into a soft light. And sure enough, when she looked up, she saw the sun, as is sliped out of veiw. She trotted over to the fresh kill pile lost in her own thoughts.
*What could it mean, why would they send a message to me and not Yellowstep or Owlstar. Beware unfrimilier sents and paws. That must mean something new is coming to the forest, right.* She chose a plum mouse and walked over to Shadowpaw and Graypaw, who were sharing tounges by the apprentice den.
"Hello." Softpaw greeted the 2 toms.
"Hey Softpaw, are you going to the gathering?" Shadowpaw asked.
She had forgotten that tonight was the full moon. If she went to the gathering on the island where all the clans met in a night of truce, it would be her first gathering since she had only become an apprentice a few sunrises ago. Which would make it Shadowpaw and Graypaw's second gathering because they are one moon older then Softpaw and her siblings.
"I don't know, I will have to ask Willowpelt." At that Willowpelt padded over.
"Hello Shadowpaw, Graypaw, can I borrow Softpaw for a moment."
"Of course," Graypaw said, stepping aside to let Softpaw past to walk beside her mentor. She began to speak, her voice sounding excited.
"Owlstar wants you to come to the gathering tonight."
*Tonight ,when the moon is full ... is the prochecy going to come true ...*

*what could it mean.*
"So ... what do you think?" Willowpelt questioned, and Softpaw realized that she was whating for her response.
"Of course, I can't wait!"
Should *I tell Owlstar about the prochecy ... what would she think ... but what if my clan is in danger, and I am the only one who can stop it.*
"Great! We are leaving soon." Willowpelt exclaimed before padding off towards Rosetail, her best friend, and Shadowpaw's mentor, and Thislebranch who were sharing tounges by the warriors den. She had made up her mind, she was going to tell Owlstar.

Softpaw trotted to the medicine den where Tansypaw was giving Rainpaw some water soaked moss, and she could see Brindlepelt towards the back of the den, she raised her had and gave Softpaw a slight nod before lying back down. Yellowstep emerged from the herb store. A strong sent of catmint coming from the herbs in her jaws. She put the herbs next to Brindlepelt and walked over to Softpaw.
"Hello Softpaw, what brings you here?"
"Hello Yellowstep, I need to tell you and Owlstar something, can you meet me at Highledge?"
"Of course," Yellowstep and Tansypaw were both focused on her now, concern on their faces.
"We will be there in a moment." Softpaw trotted out of the medicine den and up to Owlstars den on top of Highledge. She paused at the entrance, covered in ivy and vines.
"Owlstar, may I come in?"
"Of course, come in." She pushed through the vines to see Owlstar lying on her nest her light tabby pelt was smooth and freshly groomed.
"What's going on?" Owlstar asked.
"I think we should wait for Yellowstep before I say anything."

Yellowstep and Tansypaw walked in, Puzzled looks on their faces. Softpaw took a deep breath.
"Listen, I have no idea if this was my imagination and all in my head but ... I think Starclan sent me a sign." She breathed in and out

her voice shaking. The 3 cats around her looked intently at her.
"I was in an enchanted forest and silverpelt looked so close. Yellowfang and Spottedleaf walked up to me with Galekit."
"Oh," Tansypaw said, giving Softpaw a sorry look.
*She knows how much it must have hurt me to see my brother.*
She continued telling her dream to her leader and medicine cats. It felt weird telling them about her dream. Especially when she had no idea I'd it was real or all just in her head.
"When Galekit left to go back to the Starclan camp Spottedleaf and Yellowfang told me a-a prochecy."
"Please, Softpaw, continue." Owlstar asked a searching look in her eyes.
"Ok, Spottedleaf s-she said, *Beware unfrimilier sents and paws. They shall come when the moon is full, don't let them come, but they must come."*

**Chapter 4 coming soon, I will get it out as soon as I can**

# Chapter 4

Pov - 3rd person
The four cats walked out of Owlstar's den. Owlstar made her way to the front of Highledge. Yellowstep and Tansypaw lept from rock to rock, making their way down. Softpaw waited before jumping down herself. As she was leaping down the last rock Owlstar called out the familiar words calling the clan to gather around her.
"Let all cats old enough to catch their own prey join her beneath the highledge for a clan meeting." Her voice rang around the hollow.
Cats started emerging from their dens. Bramblestrip and Snowpebble, two off the elders who were sunning themselves on a sunlit bolder on the far side of camp, trying to soak in the last bit of sunlight before it faded. walked over and took a seat. Bramblestrip had just recently joined the two elder she-cats Snowpebble and Misttail in the elders den a few moons ago. Speaking of Misttail, she was sharing tounges with Palefur by the nursery, Palefur's four strong kits playing close by. The kits, were only a few moons old, they had been born when Softpaw was still in the nursery with her mother, Ravenspark and her siblings, that was when Galekit was still alive. Softpaw felt a pang of sadness, she missed her brother,it was amazing to see her him again. Thislebranch raced to the clearing, followed by Willowpelt's mother, Dawnleaf, and her sister, Whirlpool. All three cats had food in their mouths, they must have gone out for some evening hunting. Owlstar waited for them to put their catch on top of the fresh kill pile and make their way to sit with the rest of the clan before speaking.
*She is the clan leader, It's up to her I'd she wants to tell the clan about my dream.*

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"Thislebranch, Willowpelt, Softpaw, Rosetail, Shadowpaw, Dusknose, Silverwhisker, Bluestream, Olivepaw, Yellowshine, Graypaw, Whirlpool, and Firestorm will be coming to the Gathering. Stripedfoot will be in charge while we are gone." Owlstar jumped off the highledge and walked off to the entrance

tunnel to wait for the chosen cats to gather. Softpaw looked over at Bluepaw. Her face was cold and hard as steel. She then knew the reason she wasn't going was because her mentor, Brindlepelt, was sick with whitecough. Willowpelt called over from the gathering cats,
"Softpaw, are you coming?"
"Coming!" She started trotting over to her mentor. She realized that everyone was waiting for her. They started for the tunnel, pushing their way through the gorse. The tunnel opened up into a small clearing. Owlstar took the lead racing through the forest. She had only been at the Gathering Island only once. Willowpelt and Olivepaw's mentor Bluestream took her, Bluepaw and Olivepaw, with permission from Owlstar, took a trip to the Gathering Island Softpaw hadn't really enjoyed walking across the fallen log that allowed the cats access to the island. She had felt like she she was going to fall off with every shaking step she took. The island was stunning. There is a rocky coast, and if you push through the bushes and gorse, you get to a clearing with a large tree. Bluestream said that the leaders jump up onto the low branches to address the cats below them. They ran through the forest, passing the moss gathering tree. They then made their way to the Windclan border. Their strong sent mixed with ours. They walked along the border towards the lake. They passed the clearing where the yearly festivals are held. Eventually, they made their way to the fallen tree. Willowpelt trotted over.
"Don't forget, don't give the other clans any information they can use agenst us." She said, she looked excited.
"I know, Willowpelt." I replied a little exasperated. Softpaw knew she was trying to look out for me, but she didn't need to treat her like a little kit. She knew not to share anything that might make Thunderclan seem weak.
"I can't wait for you to meet my friends." Willowpelt said, her eyes bright with excitement.
"Friends ... from other clans?" Softpaw asked, puzzled.
*Aren't the other clans our enemies, our rivals. How can she be friends with them.*
"Of course we all have friends from other clans, remember Firestar and the other leaders worked as one many seasons ago to bring the clans to the lake. And we still honor that today with they yearly festivals." Willowpelt explained.

*I guess that makes sense*.
"I guess so." Softpaw said she was a little nervous. She had no idea what the other clans were like. She had smelled the Windclan and Shadowclan when Willowpelt had taken him out for a patrol. But they had never encountered any patrols when they were out by the borders. Softpaw quietly waited her turn to walk across the fallen log, only she knew how excited she was. After Willowpelt had crossed, she placed one paw onto the log. It was skinnier then Softpaw expected, and it was starting to ware smooth from countless cats crossing it. She dug her claws into the bark and started walking across. She made slow progress at first, she was nervous about falling in. But she eventually made it across, and onto the island.

# Chapter 5

Pov - 3rd Person
Once everyone had crossed the log and were on the island, Owlstar collected them before twitching her tail, the signal to push through the gorse and enter the inner part of the island.

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Softpaw pushed through the gorse and bushes right behind Willowpelt. As Softpaw pushed through, the bushes opened up to a clearing. The clearing was large, with a huge tree in the center. Softpaw could see a group of cats sitting over to one side. She could smell Windclan scent and guessed Windclan had gotten here first. Willowpelt beckoned to her, and she walked over. She passed Thislebranch sitting under the tree with another cat, who she guessed was the Windclan deputy. She trotted over to Willowpelt, who was sitting with a new strange cat.
"Softpaw, this is Moorflower, Moorflower, this is Softpaw."
"Nice to meet you." Moorflower was a young calico she-cat, her amber eyes sparkling in the moonlight.
*This must be one of Willowpelt's friends*
Softpaw could see her clanmates weaving among the Windclan warriors and apprentices. Suddenly, Softpaw saw cats pushing through the undergrowth. They were sleak, and some of them had wet pelts as though they had chosen to swim across instead of waiting to use the log.
"That's Riverclan," Willowpelt said, following my gaze. Now she could smell the fishy sent that she wasn't able to smell before. Riverclan was the only clan that did not border Thunderclan. One of the Riverclan cats walked over to Thislebranch and the Windclan cat under the large oak.
That must be where all the deputy from all the clans go to talk.
A white and gray spotted she-cat walked up to them, her pelt was dappled, and she she had one blue and one green eye. She had a soft, gentle look in her eyes. Willowpelt trotted over to her and gave out a purr of delight.

"Dappledtail, so nice to see you. You haven't been here in a while." Willowpelt said, her voice in its happy tone.
"I know, Stormleaf got sick last full moon, and Breezeheart had her kits the moon before that."
"I remember Froststar telling us about that, send Breezeheart our regards."
"Will do," Willowpelt turned to me and flicked her tail in my direction.
"Oh, sorry, Dappledtail, this is my apprentice, Softpaw."
"Nice to meet you," Dappledtail said,
"I am one of the the Riverclan medicine cats."
"Nice to meet you."
Owlstar and 2 other cats, she guesses Froststar and Marshstar, the leaders of Riverclan and Windclan, jumped onto one of the low branches and settled down.

They sat their for a few minutes, the three leaders exchanged looks with each other. Finally, Owlstar spoke,
"We cannot wait for Shadowclan any longer. We will begin without them." She beckoned to Marshstar.
"The hunting has been good on the Moor," he began, his calm, flat voice carrying across the clearing to all of the sitting cats.
"We have two new apprentices, we would like to formally introduce Falconpaw and Siftpaw to the other clans." The cats around the clearing began chanting,
"Falconpaw! Swiftpaw!" She noticed that mostly Windclan was chanting. Marshstar was stepping back to allow Froststar to speak, when loud crackling coming from the bushes stopped the leaders in their tracks.



A Black tom with a white paw and underbelly pushed through the undergrowth, closely followed by a gray and white van she-cat.
"You finally decide to show up?" Froststar hissed, her claws were unsheathed, and her eyes were narrowed to slits. Owlstar stepped forward and placed her tail on Froststar muzzle, asking Froststar to quiet down.
"Ravenstar," Owlstar spoke, cool and icey. She immediately got the

impression that she did not like Ravenstar.
"And who's your companion?" A large number of cats walked into the clearing. There must have been around double the size of a normal gathering patrol, Softpaw thought. She also noticed that around half the cats walked right in with the other clans and looked confident and comfortable. She also noticed that the other half sat close together in the far corner of the clearing, looking at the she-cat who walked beside Ravenstar. They looked battered and had battle scars on them. Their pelts were matted and ungroomed.
"A friend of mine," Ravenstar answered.
*Beware unfrimilier sents and paws.* The prochecy repeated in her head ,
*They shall come when the moon is full, don't let them come, but they must come.*
This is what the prochecy was taking about, strange cats, coming to the Gathering ... but what did the second part mean?

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"Let your *friend* introduce herself." Froststar hissed, Marshstar flicked his tail over her muzzle and beckoned her back behind Owlstar.
"Easy Froststar, no need to get rawled up." Marshstar mumbled to the snarling tom.
"Yes, I agree with Froststar. Let your friend here speak." Owlstar said confidently. Owlstar looked directly at the gray van she-cat. The she cat looked right back at Owlstar and raised her head.
"I am Moonstar, leader of Bloodclan."

**Thank you so much for all your patience. I do give a warning that I will hopefully(if I can stop myself) be taking a break from writing Corrupted Heart, and try to focus on my other stories. But with fin als coming up, I can't promise I will be able to post anything. Thank you, and may Starclan light your path.**

# Chapter 6

Pov - Softpaw
A hiss came from the back of the crowd. Bramblestripe walked forward, his eyes dark.
"What's wrong, Bramblestripe?" Owlstar asked, but from the look in her eyes, she knew the answer, and I did too.

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"Bloodclan," Bramblestripe hissed, his tail lashing.
"Owlstar, we all know the story. How Firestar and Thunderclan defeated Bloodclan back in the old forest."
"I know, Bramblestripe,"
"They can't live with us. They are murderers."
"Bramblestripe, we don't know their intentions here. They could just be passing through." Owlstar looked at the other three leaders that were on the tree. It was obvious that they didn't think Bloodclan was just passing through.

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"Maybe we should hear what she has to say," Ravenstar hissed. He held his head high, a glittering in his eyes. Owlstar took a deep breath before speaking,
"Let's hear her then," Moonstar nodded to Owlstar greatefully before turning to face the cats sitting. All ears were pricked on her. We all wanted to hear what she said.
"Me and my cats were dying in our territory. there wasn't enough food, and everyone was getting sick." Several cats hissed, including Froststar and Bramblestripe.
"I am just looking for a new home for me and my cats."
"Lies!" Froststar hissed a vengeful look in his eyes.
"Calm down, Froststar. we don't know if they are speaking li-" Froststar hissed cutting Marshstar off,
"We don't know if they are speaking the truth either!"
"Froststar has a point. Why should we trust you?" Owlstar spoke loud enough for every cat to hear, but she only had eyes for

Moonstar. The two she-cats were looking directly into the other's eyes, as if they were challenging each other.
"I don't know ..." Moonstar replied, and for the first time, she looked away. Her tail dropped slightly before she held it high again.
"Cats of the lake," Owlstar began,
"We need to choose if Moonstar and her cats are allowed to stay at the lake." Several hisses came up from the crowd.
"I say we should kick them out!" Bramblestripe hissed. Froststar shoved Marshstar aside and went to stand next to Owlstar.
"I agree with Bramblestripe," she said, dipping her head at the older tom,
"We don't know if she is lying or not." Several of the Riverclan cat yowled their agreement, but she could see a few Riverclan cats who turned away from their leader.
*I wonder if some of the Riverclan cats don't support their leader?*
Puddlestar who had remained quiet during the accusations now stepped forward to speak.
"Skyclan had never been at the old forest, so we don't know the stories of the Bloodclan battle except what the other four clans have told us. So I will chose my side once I've consulted my Deputy, Medicine Cat, and Senior Warriors." Puddlestar declared, which Softpaw thought was fair.
"Of course Puddlestar," Owlstar responended to the younger leader, "that is understandable."
"Shadowclan is willing to house them in our camp until all the clans make a decision." Ravenstar spoke his head high. He looked Owlstar right in the eyes. Owlstar turned to include Marshstar and Froststar,
"I am fine with that as long as you are." She said to her two fellow leaders.
"That is fine with me," Marshstar said in his flat voice. Both cats turned to Froststar,
"Fine. Fine!" She hissed,
"As long as they stay away from Riverclan." He was obviously mad about the agreement, but she didn't say anything.
"Then we are all in agreement, Bloodclan will stay with Shadowclan." All of the cats nodded their heads in agreement to the arrangement.
"All right then, meeting dismissed!"

**Thank you so much for all your support with this series so far,**

**it means a lot, don't forget to go to my profile and participate in the question of the week! Happy reading and may Starclan light your path.**

# Chapter 7

Pov - Softpaw
All of the clan cats dispursed into their clan and found their way to their leader, all of which had jumped down from the great tree and were gathering their clanmates. Willowpelt said a quick bye to her friends before bounding over to me.
"Come on, we don't want the clan waiting on us!" Willowpelt went to talk to her sister while I went to talk to my brother.
"That was crazy," he said as I trotted up.
"I know, I didn't think Bloodclan would show up, or Owlstar could get that intense."
"Right! It was wild." The clan started moving towards the log, and Olivepaw and I trotted after them.
*I wonder what Moonstar and Bloodclan really want. The first part of the prophecy was talking about when Bloodclan would show up. But what does the second part mean?*

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The second part of the prophecy kept replaying over in my head, *Don't let them come, but they must come.* What did they mean, is something bad going to happen to the forest and disturb the peaceful clans?

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Me and Olivepaw were greeted by Bluepaw, who started spilling out excited questions.
"What's was it like? What were the other leaders like? What were the other clans like? What did the leaders talk about?-"
"I'm sure their will be a meeting soon, and Owlstar will tell you all about it." Olivepaw said his eyes looked a little scared. The gathering must have scared him as much as it did me.

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After a few moments, Owlstar jumped up onto the Highledge and

faced her clanmates. The clan quieted down. She could see Dusknose sitting beside his mate, Palefur, and their four kits. She could also see Firestorm walk over to where Willowpelt was sitting and take a seat next to her.
*I wonder what is going on over there?*
Shadowpaw and Graypaw sat down next to us. Me, my siblings and I, and still to this day, have good friends with the two brothers. With Graypaw and Shadowpaw only being a moon older than my siblings and I, we had often played together as kits.
Owlstar sat down and began speaking.
"At the gathering, something unusual happened. We started the meeting without Shadowclan because they were late, they brought Bloodclan."
Several hisses came up from many cats, but mostly from the elders and senior warriors.
"Shadowclan has agreed to house Bloodclan until we have decided what we are going to do with them." Owlstar had barely stopped speaking before the whole camp erupted.
"Just let them stay with Shadowclan. Let it be their problem!"
"Kick them out! They tried to kill us once before!"
To be honest, my head hurt from all the chaos. Shadowpaw pressed his fur into mine, leaning towards me. And gave me a swift lick between the ears. She could see Willowpelt, shivering, pressed close against Firestorm.

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The clan was in an uproar. Everyone was whispering amongst each other. Kesteralfeather spoke up from where he was sitting with the other senior warriors under the Highledge.
"We should start to prepare in case they attack!"
"Exactly what I was thinking, we need warriors to reinforce the thorn barrier as well as the dens. Silverwhisker, can you organize cats to start at dawn?" Owlstar asked the senior warrior, who was sitting next to Kesteralfeather.
"Of course, Owlstar." Silverwhisker wasn't the oldest senior warriors, but he was one of the most experienced.
"Alright then, let's get working."

**Please feel free to leave your ideas and suggestions in the**

**comments. I love hearing from you all! Chapter 8 will be out next week**

# Chapter 8

Pov - Softpaw

She heard paw steps walking into the apprentices den, very early the next morning. She opened her eyes to Willowpelt, who was sliding up to her.
"Come on, Softpaw, we are helping reinforce the dens today."
"Ok." I replied before sleepily stretching and walking out of the den. Bluepaw and Graypaw were still peacefully sleeping in their own nests.
Olivepaw and his mentor, Bluestream, were already weaving brambles into the outer wall with Silverwhisker running from cat to cat, giving orders. Skypaw was carrying used moss from the elders den. Palefur's four kits were wrestling outside of the nursery, with Sheepcloud watching them, while Palefur probably caught up on some rest. Suddenly, Honeykit bounded over to her and Willowpelt as they were walking over to Silverwhisker.
"Can I help? I am almost five moons old." Honeykit asked proudly.
"No little one," Willowpelt answered purring softly,
"You're too young. Kits aren't allowed to help."
"Whyyyyyy,"
"You know what, how about you help Skypaw clean out the elders den, they might tell you a story if you help."
"Ok!" She said before turning around and scampering off to Skypaw, who was taking another load of bedding out of the elders den. At sunhigh, Silverwhisker finally called all the working cats for a break. As she was setting down with a small thrush, Shadowpaw came back from his hunting patrol with a large squirrel in his jaws, his mentor, Rosetail trotting alongside him holding a young rabbit. Yellowshine, who was at the head of the patrol, and Dusknose who was at the rear were each carrying a few mice. Shadowpaw proudly put his catch on top of the fresh kill pile before trotting over to her, his chin up and tail raised.
"Did you see what I caught?!" He asked her.
"Of course I did," I said before standing up and nuzzling him.
"Would you like to share the rest of the thrush with me?" I asked,

nodding towards the remains of the thrush.
"Of course!" He said before sitting down and settling down with her to finish the thrush.

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Later that night, Softpaw settled down  in her nest next to Shadowpaw and Graypaw. Graypaw had joined them in the apprentice den after getting back from the dusk patrol. Owlstar had ordered they started doing dusk patrols since Bloodclan came to the lake. As Graypaw walked in, he walked over and gave her a quick nuzzle. Shadowpaw glared over at him. They all curled up, and soon, she could hear the other apprentices snoring softly in their nests. Bit she had a feeling she might not be able to sleep tonight. Something about the way Shadowpaw looked at Graypaw... just thinking about it made her stomach drop.

**Sorry about the shorter chapter. My brain is not working, and to be honest, I'm exhausted. Anyway... I hope you all enjoy the chapter! Chapter 9 should be out in the next 2ish weeks. May Starclan light your path, and happy reading!**

# Chapter 9

Pov - Softpaw

The next morning, Softpaw awoke to Shadowpaw gently shaking her awake.
"Softpaw," he whispered, trying not to wake up the other apprentices,
"Come on, our mentors want to get an early start on battle training."
She stood up and stretched before following Shadowpaw out of the den, carefully picking her way around Skypaw. Who was stretched out in her nest, snoring softly. Willowpelt and Rosetail were sitting outside the den waiting for them. At the sight of the 2 apprentices, they stood up and motioned for them to follow them with a flick of their tails. They passed Kesteralfeather, who was on guard at the entrance tunnel. He nodded to them as they passed. Willowpelt and Rosetail lead the way to the mossy hollow, Shadowpaw is plodding along beside her, his pelt lightly brushing hers. They arrived at the mossy hollow by early morning,
"Ok, Shadowpaw, Softpaw, me, and Rosetail are going to demonstrate a fighting move." Willowpelt explained,
"Ready?" She asked Rosetail, who nodded in return. Willowpelt leaped onto Rosetails back, but Rosetail was quicker. She rolled out of the way while slashing sheathed paws at Willowpelt's underbelly.
"Great job!" Willowpelt exclaimed,
"I couldn't have done it better myself!" She told Rosetail.
"Thanks! This move is especially good if a larger cat trys leaping onto you," Rosetail explained, turning back to us,
"Shadowpaw, how about you try leaping onto Softpaw, and remember, claws sheathed!"
Shadowpaw turned to face me, and he squared off, then he pounced. I rolled just in time, lashing my sheathed paws out on his exposed underbelly.
"Great job, Softpaw! That was perfect!" Willowpelt praised her. For the rest of the training session, Softpaw and Shadowpaw took turns being attacked and doing the attacking, and Softpaw's pride was overwhelming.

*I can't believe that Willowpelt praised me so highly.*

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Back at camp, Softpaw and Shadowpaw trotted over to the fresh kill pile. Where Palefur's kits were playing with a dead mouse.
"Don't play with food," Shadowpaw scolded the 4 kits gentley.
"We were practicing our hunters crouch!" Blazekit said enthusiastically.
"Don't play with prey!" Palefur called from her spot where she was soaking in the sunhigh sun.
"How about you four come and share the mouse and maybe another piece of prey with me." Snowpebble called to the 4 young kits.
"Ok!" Blazekit picked up the mouse and carried over to Snowpebble, while Honeykit, Amberkit, and Dawnkit all worked together to pull a small squirrel off the pile and wrestle it over to Snowpebble, where she and Blazekit were already starting to share the mouse.
"Oh, kits!" Shadowpaw laughed with a glint of amusement in his eyes.
"Do you want to share a squirrel?" He asked her.
"Of course!"

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They settled down near the apprentice den, and Shadowpaw dragged the squirrel over. They sat down and ate the squirrel quietly. A few minutes later, Olivepaw and Bluepaw bounded over, each with a mouse in their jaws.
"Do you mind if we eat with you? Bluestream took us out for hunting practice this morning." Olivepaw asked.
"Sure!"Shadowpaw said, shuffling over to give them room to sit down.
"Thanks," Bluepaw said gratefully before settling down beside Olivepaw and taking a bite of her mouse.

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Later that day, Softpaw found herself cleaning out the elder's den along with  Skypaw and Graypaw. Misttail, Bramblestripe, and Snowpebble were helpfully sitting to the side and kindly telling the three apprentices a story.

"Did you three ever hear the story of Firestar and how he led the clan against the battle with Bloodclan in the old forest?"
"No! I knew that Bloodclan had terrorized the clans before, but I never knew the Firestar was the one to stop them."

**Omg, I just realized that I forgot about Skyclan, lol. Ummm, I'm going to go back and rewrite part of the book... what is wrong with me... Anyways I hope you enjoy the rest of the chapter.**

"Well," Bramblestripe began. "It all started when a cat named Scrooge brang his cats from the two-leg place and teamed up with the first Tigerstar to take over the old forest..."

"And it turned out that many moons after that battle, we found out that Scrooge and Firestar were half brothers, both with the same father." Bramblestripe finished.

After Softpaw, Graypaw, and Skypaw finished cleaning out the Elders den, they grabbed a big squirrel to share and took it over to the Apprentice den.
"I wonder if Bloodclan is planning to eventually leave the lake. I just want things to go back to normal." Skypaw said, sorrow in the fellow apprentice eyes.
"I know, sometimes when I hear the elders and the rest of the clan talk about Bloodclan and how evil they were. Well, sometimes I just want to go over to the Shadowclan camp and rip off their faces for what they did to us." Graypaw announced.
*You know what, I agree with him, Bloodclan is just a bunch of annoying cats.*

# Chapter 10

Pov - Softpaw

A couple of moons later, Willowpelt, Kesteralfeather, Firestorm, and Softpaw went out for a hunting patrol. Willowpelt and Firestorm teamed up to catch a large rabbit. Kesteralfeather caught a squirrel, and she had caught a small fortune of voles she had stumbled upon. Back at camp, they deposited their catch on the fresh kill pile. When Shadowpaw and Graypaw came scampering up to her.
"Guess what!" Shadowpaw said excitedly.
"What?" She asked.
"We are getting our warrior assessment today!" Graypaw finished in a rush as tho he was dying to tell me.
"Our mentors got put on a patrol, so they left us here to get ready." Shadowpaw finished.
"Wow, congrats and good luck!" I called as she saw Shadowpaw and Graypaw's mentors, Rosetail, and Yellowshine.
"Come on, Graypaw, you too, Shadowpaw. Time for your assessments!" Yellowshine called to his apprentice and his brother. The two young toms scampered over to their mentors before all four cats headed through the tunnel.

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Softpaw helped Skypaw and Rainpaw, who was now out of the medicine den, to pick ticks off the elders when Bluepaw walked in carrying a large squirrel.
"Did you catch that?" Snowpebble asked her sister.
"Yes! Brindlepelt took me out hunting, and she said if I keep working this hard, I might be able to become a warrior with my littermates!"
"That's wonderful!" Misttail congratulated Bluepaw.
"Anyway... Brindlepelt said I could bring you this squirrel."
Thank you, you can leave it right there." Bramblestripe said as Rainpaw searched his pelt for ticks. Bluepaw dropped the squirrel before turning around and trotting out. Brindlepelt had been let out

of the medicine den not long after Rainpaw, who had been released 3 moons ago. Brindlepelt had immediately restarted in Bluepaw's training so as not to lose more time.

When Softpaw Rainpaw and Skypaw finished their task, they settled down outside the apprentice den to wait for Shadowpaw and Graypaw. Skypaw should be a warrior, but she decided to wait for her sister before becoming warriors. A little while later in came Graypaw and Shadowpaw were marching through the tunnel, closely followed by Yellowshine and Rosetail. Owlstar stepped out of her den and looked down proudly at her two kits, all grown up and ready to be warriors. Owlstar's mate and Graypaw and Shadowpaw's father passed away before Owlstar had even known she was expecting kits. Thislebranch had taken over for a while as acting leader, and Kesteralfeather had been acting deputy. Owlstar is very sensitive when talking about her mate, so the clan never talks about it.

The two mentors nodded to Owlstar, who lept down the Hoghleadge to stand in the center of the semi circle that the clan had formed.
"I, Owlstar, leader of ThunderClan, call upon my warrior ancestors to look down on these apprentices. They have trained hard to understand the ways of your noble code, and I commend them to you as warriors in their turn. Yellowshine, does your apprentice, Graypaw, pass his warriors assessment, and does he understand the ways of the warrior code?"
"He did, and he does." Yellowshine replied confidently,
"He respects the warrior code, and he passed his warrior assessment with the catch of two squirrels and three voles, as well as defeating Rosetail in a mock fight." Owlstar nodded her head before turning to Rosetail.
"Rosetail, does your apprentice, Shadowpaw, pass his warrior assessment, and does he understand the ways of the warrior code?"
"He did, and he does. He may not be the best on cat to cat combat, but he is great at planning and executing surprise attacks. He did a very good surprise attack on Yellowshine, and his hunting couldn't

be better."
"Graypaw and Shadowpaw, do you promise to uphold the warrior code and to protect and defend your clan, even at the cost of your life?"
"I do." Graypaw and Shadowpaw's answer rang clearing through the clearing as they said it in unison.
"Then, by the powers of StarClan, I give you your warrior names. Graypaw, from this moment on, you will be known as Grayfade. StarClan honors your bravery and your skill in battle. And Shadowpaw from this moment on you will be known as Shadowclaw, StarClan honors your courage and ability to plan surprise attacks, and we welcome both of you as full warriors of Thunderclan."

# Chapter 11

Pov - Softpaw

Shadowclaw and Grayfade held their warrior vigil that night, where they honor their new name by sitting in silence for the night, protecting the clan. Softpaw got a great night's sleep until she woke up the next morning and remembered what day it was.
*Great, the Gathering, just what I* need right now.
She sighed, she sort of hoped that she didn't have to go to this gathering. The past few had been full of the leaders yelling and arguing. And what was worse, Ravenstar thought that Moonstar should be given the leaders privilege of sitting in the Great Oak. Puddlestar was very reluctant about the new cats, and it seemed that she was leaning to Owlstar and Marshstar's side. But Froststar has been acting very weird, and she had even tried to defend Moonstar. Once when Bloodclan started causing trouble at the last gathering by threatening the other clans, Froststar stepped in to defend Moonstar by saying that it wasn't Moonstars falt that her clan was hostile, and that Moonstar didn't want to hurt the other clans.

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Softpaw rested in her nest for a while until Willowpelt poked her head into the den
"Come on, Softpaw, battle training." She said softly.
"Coming," I said before sighing and heaving myself out of my nest. Before she knew it, she was in the mossy hollow, with Willowpelt's paws planted firmly and strongly on her chest. Softpaw let herself go limp, and when she felt Willowpelt's grip lesson she thrust up with all the strength, and she was able to get a few blows the her face before jumping on Willowpelt's back and raking sheathed claws down it. Willowpelt jumped back, ending the attack.
"Wow, you're getting really good. At this rate, you'll be a warrior in no time. Let's head back to camp and get something to eat, I don't know if we are part of the Gathering Patrol or not."

Back at camp, Softpaw was sharing a vole with Bluepaw when Owlstar walked over to Thislebranch, who was eating a mouse not too far away. Softpaw pricked her ears in their direction, trying not to make it too obvious that she was eavesdropping.
"A Skyclan patrol met mine this morning at the border. Pinefur was leading the patrol, with Snowdust, Honeyspots, Meadowfall, and her apprentice. They wanted to talk about Bloodclan and Shadowclan. Apparently, they keep shifting their borders, more and more into Skyclan territory. They want to bring it up at the Gathering, I advised them not to, but if they do bring it up, I'm on Skyclan's side." Thislebranch looked over to her, and she pointed her ears back over to her sister, who was talking about the dawn patrol.

All the cats chosen for the gathering gathered at the entrance tunnel at dusk. Softpaw walked up to her mentor, confident and ready.
*Let's do this!*

# Chapter 12

"Let the Gathering begin!" Puddlestar yowled from her place on a branch of the Great Oak. Ravenstar stepped forward.
"I must speak!" He exclamed."With Bloodclan sheltering with us, Shadowclan needs more territory to hunt. We are requesting that the other clans give us hunting rights on their land." There was a massive uproar from the crowd. She could hear her fellow clanmates yowling their disapproving thoughts at the Shadowclan leader and whispering amongst the Windclan and Skyclan warriors.
"This is outrageous!" She heard Yellowstep whispering to Featherleaf and Mudfur, the two Windclan Medicine Cats.
Tansypaw sideled over to her.
"We know your prochey was about Bloodclan coming to the forest. Could this be the "Don't let them come" part because they will cause problems amongst the clans." She pondered
"I think so, I mean, I have a feeling that that's what it means... but what does the "But they must come" part mean?" Softpaw asked her friend.
"I don't know, but I think we will find it out when Starclan wants us too."

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There was more arguing between the leaders, with Puddlestar reluctant to join in. I don't really know what sparked Puddlestar to suddenly jump in, but she snapped me back to attention, that's for sure.
"Shadowclan has been pressing our borders, and they have been easing the border more into Skyclan territory!" Puddlestar yowled.
Owlstar gave Puddlestar a not that noticeable glare before she jumped black in.
"I believe Skyclan, Thunderclan is with them!" The Gathering went silent before Ravenstar spoke up.
"Well, Froststar, Marshstar, are you with those lies or not!" He sounded angry, and I was glad I was not Shadowclan right then, I would not have wanted to be on that walk home.

"I don't like that Bloodclan has shown up here," Marshstar spoke in his calm and plain voice, "Windclan will stand with Thunderclan and Skyclan."
"I honestly feel bad for them," Froststar began, "The more I meet them on border patrols, the more I see how thin they are, the more I pity them. Riverclan will stand by Shadowclan and Bloodclan, and we will give them hunting rights on our land."

There was a huge uproar from Riverclan. She heard Icehawk, a Riverclan warrior yowl,
"No, Froststar! If we give them hunting rights on OUR territory, we will seem weak!"
She also noticed that Pearlflower, the Riverclan deputy lowered her head, and her eyes clouded, I guessed that Pearlflower didn't support her leaders decision. The Riverclan warriors kept on yowling, and Owlstar gave Froststar an interested look,
"You know Froststar, you were completely against and aggressive with Shadowclan and Bloodclan at the first time they came to a gathering together. Now my question is what happened to change your mind?" Froststar thought for a moment before responding.
"Like I said, when we see them on border patrols, I feel bad for them, and the longer they have been here, the more I truly believe them." I thought that was interesting, it looked and sounded like Froststar was set at that first Gathering. I noticed that Froststar looked nervous, and I saw that Owlstar saw her too. I knew we were both thinking the same thing. Something was wrong with Froststar.

# Chapter 13

Softpaw glanced at Owlstar. She looked her leader in the eyes, and they shared a look before she heard someone calling her mane.
"Softpaw, come here!" She turned around to see her mentor, Willowpelt with her friends Dappledtail, and Moorflower.
"Dappledtail, tell her what you told me." Willowpelt asked her friend, the Riverclan medicine cat.
"Ever since Ravenstar, "Moonstar," and a couple of Shadowclan and Bloodclan warriors came to visit Froststar as a "Peace Delegation," Froststar has been acting weird. Volunteering for all the patrols that go to the Shadowclan border, and then the warriors say she disappears and doesn't show up until they finish marking the border and are starting to head home. And now this." Dappledtail spills.
"Well, it sounds like that."Peace Delegation" was actually there to bribe Froststar onto there side, I just wonder what's in it for her." Softpaw answers, wondering what Ravenstar and Moonstar would have said to Froststar to make her act like this. When suddenly Puddlestar jumped down from the Great Oak,
"Come on, Skyclan, we are leaving!" Skyclan said goodbye to their friends before hurrying to follow their leader to the tree bridge.
"Thunderclan, let's go too!" Owlstar declared. Willowpelt and Softpaw said a quick goodbye to Dappledtail and Moorflower before following their clan over the tree bridge and back into their territory.

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The next morning, Willowpelt and Softpaw were doing ambush training with Bluepaw and Brindlepelt. Where Brindlepelt was giving them some last-minute instructions.
"Remember, if you get startled, just take a deep breath." She finished before bounding off and disappearing into the undergrowth. Suddenly, she felt a large body slam into her from above. It was Willowpelt.
Softpaw tried rolling out of the way, but she was caught off guard, and Willowpelt ended up pinning her down.

"Good next time, try to be a little quicker, remember, no cat is perfect on the first try." Willowpelt advised.
"If I can't be better, I do better and train harder." She exclamed
"Just don't burn yourself out!" Willowpelt said with a chuckle

"Shadowclaw, Grayfade, Bluestream, Olivepaw, Softpaw, Rosetail and Willowpelt, you will do the dusk patrol along the Shadowclan border, Willowpelt your in charge. Be careful. With Shadowclan approaching on Skyclans border, you can't be too careful." Thislebranch called. Softpaw was not looking forward to the late patrol. All she wanted to do was curl up in her nest, but even the Apprentice Den seemed more lonely that now Skywing and Raintail had gotten their warriors name and moved up to the warriors den. She gathered with her patrol at the entrance tunnel before they headed out into the forest. Bluestream and Rosetail quickly catching up with Willowpelt, the three have always been close friends, but now more than ever, they have been sticking really close. Grayfade followed them, but Shadowclaw stayed back with me and Olivepaw.
"So how has Apprentice life been?" Shadowclaw asked teasingly. She slamed into him and almost pushed him down a hill.
"That's what you get for being annoying," She troted up in front of him, swishing her tail in his face to be annoying.
"Hey!" She let her ear drift in the direction of her mentor.
"So, is it true, are you two officially mates?" Bluestream asked Willowpelt,  Softpaw became intrigued. She didn't want to get caught eavesdropping, but she was very curious.
"I mean, I think so, I think you can start calling us mates now."
"Who? You and Firestorm?" Grayfade asked, plodding up next to them.
"Well, I didn't want to tell too many cats, but yes." Willowpelt admitted.
"Congratulations!" Grayfade said before  trotting away.
"Ok, everyone! Let's start marking this border. The faster we mark, the sooner we can get home!" Willowpelt announced. Softpaw went over to a brand and started rubbing her jaw along it. Her ears pricked up to a slight rustling sound behind her.
"Ambush! We are under attack!"

# Chapter 14

Just as Softpaw yelled to her clanmates about the ambush, the cats pounced. A large black she-cat was on her back, Shadedheart digged her claws into her back, pain shot through her spine and neck. She rolled over onto her belly and went limp. Suddenly, she used all her force to kick the black she-cat off. She saw Olivepaw standing back looking bewildered at the fighting cats.
"RUN! Run back to camp and get help!" Olivepaw took off sprinting off in the direction off camp. She saw Shadowclaw struggling to battle 2 Shadowclan warriors. She lept over and slashed one of them across the face. Shadowclaw gave her a quick, greatful glance before they worked as a team, back to back to battle the Shadowclan warriors. Suddenly she heard someone yell, "RETREAT!" All the Shadowclan warriors took of scrambling back into the brush.
"Get out of here, you mange pelts!" She heard Grayfade yowl. Suddenly, Olivepaw popped from the undergrowth with Thislebranch, Firestorm, Whirlpelt, Raintail, and Dusknose.
"Where did they go!" Thislebranch asked Willowpelt.
" They retreated in that direction," She flicked her tail in the direction of the border.
"Raintail and Dusknose stay with me to make sure they are gone, Whirlpool, and Firestorm help them back to camp." Firestorm ran right up to Willowpelt, helping her slowly limp towards camp, Rosetail helping to support her best friend on the other side. Bluestream who had escaped with only a few scratches walked over to her apprentice.
"Good job, Olivepaw, that was really good."
Thanks," he said, puffing out his chest. She hobbled over to Shadowclaw.
"Are you ok?" She asked. Better than you, he said, nodding towards the deep gash on her hind leg.
"I'll survive, but let's get back to camp."

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The patrol hobbled into camp, where Yellowstep and Tansypaw were already waiting with bundles of herbs. Willowpelt was immediately taken to the Medicine Den where Yellowstep began treating her. She stayed outside with the rest of the patrol to get treated by Tansypaw. Tansypaw applied marigold and cobwebs to her wound on her hind leg.
"Take it easy for a few days, no hunting or border patrols, and I want to see you tomorrow so I can reply herbs to your wounds."
"Off course Tansypaw." She said before she heard some commotion from the Medicine Den.
"Owlstar wants to see Willowpelt." She heard Kestralfeather say to Yellowstep.
"She can't leave yet. She's not strong enough."
"Nonsense! I can go over to talk to Owlstar!" Willowpelt emerged from the Medicine Den, closely followed by Kestralfeather.
Willowpelt walked to highledge and hobbled up the rocks onto the ledge where Owlstar was standing.
"Brindlepelt! Bluestream! Can you come up here too, please?"
Bluestream and Brindlepelt looked across at each other from where they were sitting, sharing a vole. Before they both stood up and climbed the highledge, and then all four cats walked into Owlstars Den.

# Chapter 15

A few minutes later, all four cats popped out, and Brindlepelt and Bluestream helped Willowpelt down, where Rosetail was waiting to help her best friend.
"Let all cats old enough to catch their own prey gather beneath Highledge for a clan meeting!" The whole clan started coming out and sitting underneath Highledge. Palefur and Dusknose semi groomed.
*Aw, looks like the kits are going to be apprenticed today!*
"We are gathered here today to perform two of the most important ceremonies that a leader has the power to perform, which are the makings of new apprentices and the nakings of new warriors."
Softpaw and her littermates all turned around to their mentors. She was about to speak, but Willowpelt drew her tail over her muzzle, signaling to be quiet. Owlstar jumped down from the highledge and turned to face them.

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*She took a deep breath.*
*What in starclan's name is going on! About 30 minutes ago, I was fighting Shadowclan as an APPRENTICE, and now I'm going to be a WARRIOR.*
First, Owlstar turned to the four small kits bouncing around by their parents' paws.
"Honeykit, Amberkit, Blazekit, and Dawnkit, you have reached the age of six moons, and it is time for you to be apprenticed. From this day, until you receive your warrior name, you will be known as Honeypaw, Amberpaw, Blazepaw, and Dawnpaw. I ask StarClan to watch over you and guide you until you find in your paws the strength and courage of a warrior."
Owlstar signaled with her tail to Ravenspark, Silverwhisker, Kesteralfeather, and Firestorm, who all stepped forward.
"Firestorm, you are ready to take on an apprentice. You had received excellent training from Dusknose, and you have shown yourself to be fierce and brave. You will be the mentor of Blazepaw,

and I expect you to pass on all you know to Blazepaw."

Owlstar repeated the ceremony with all of the new apprentices until Honeypaw was apprenticed to Ravenspark, Dawnpaw was the apprentice of Kestralfeather, and Amberpaw was excitedly apprenticed to Silverwhisker. Softpaw was getting nervous. What if she messed up or did something wrong. Owlstar turned to them her eyes locking with each of us in turn.
"I, Owlstar, leader of ThunderClan, call upon my warrior ancestors to look down on these apprentices. They have trained hard to understand the ways of your noble code, and I commend them to you as a warrior in their turn. Olivepaw, Bluepaw, and Softpaw, do you promise to uphold the warrior code and to protect and defend your Clan, even at the cost of your life?"
"I do." All three of them said in unison.
"Then by the powers of StarClan, I give you your warrior names. Olivepaw, from this moment on, you will be known as Olivefeather. StarClan honors your brightness and your speed,  Bluepaw you will be known as Blueheart, in honor of the way you persevered and had courage and continued trainig even when your mentor was ill, And Softpaw, you will be known as Softspot, Starclan honors your determination and how strong you were in battle, and we welcome you as a full warriors of Thunderclan!"